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REMARKS

Applicants note with appreciation the telephone interview granted by the Examiner. Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claim 21.

Applicants have amended claim 1 (new claim 26) to recite that the adherent layer comprises silicones, to recite proper Markush language and to cancel the ester linkage. Claims 13, 18 and claims 23 – 24 have been canceled.

Cancelled claims 1, 5 – 7, 14 – 17 and 19 – 20 are represented as new claims 26 – 35.

These amendments are not the addition of new matter. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully ask that the Examiner enter them.

The rejection of claims 1, 5 – 7, 14 – 20, 23, 24 and claim 13 (claim 25) under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, has been obviated reciting proper Markush language in claim 1 and canceling claims 13 and 18. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully ask that the Examiner withdraw this rejection.

The rejection of claim 24 under 35 U.S.C., first paragraph has been obviated by canceling claim 24. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully ask that the Examiner withdraw this rejection.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection of claims 1, 5 – 7, 14 – 20 and 23 – 25 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over Spies et al.

Claims 26 – 35 patentably distinguish over Spies et al. in the recitation of

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a water dissolvable, continuous phase substrate,
a water dissolvable, continuous phase adhesive layer, and
a water dissolvable, continuous phase adherent layer, wherein
the adherent layer comprises silicones,

wherein the water dissolvable, continuous phase adhesive
layer is at least one organic compound incorporating one or more high polarity
function groups selected from the group consisting of an alcohol functionality, a
ketone functionality and an aldehyde functionality.

Nowhere do Spies et al. disclose or suggest this.

Spies et al. do not disclose or suggest the water dissolvable, continuous
phase adhesive layer and the water dissolvable, continuous phase adherent layer
Applicants claim.

Spies et al. only disclose adhesives based on polymers of acrylic acid, other
comonomers and a considerable amount of plasticizers or resins.

Nowhere do Spies et al. disclose an adhesive layer using the organic
compounds Applicants claim.

Nowhere do Spies et al. disclose or suggest the adherent layer Applicants
claim.

The repulpable adhesives of Spies et al., do not meet Applicants' test, setting
forth requirements for dissolvable as set forth above. Nor do the release layers of

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Spies et al. meet the test. The repulping of Spies et al. requires different materials than Applicants' invention as set forth in the claims because Spies et al. re-cycle the carton sealing tape. Applicants tape components must disperse in the sense that they will be separated into small, removable constituent portions leading to direct removal.

See page 6, lines 1 – 9 of the specification. The repulpable release layer of Spies et al. must be silicone free, whereas Applicants adherent layer include silicones.

The release layers of Spies et al. are copolymers of amide/styrene, in particular N-Stearylmaeamide and styrene, mixed with film-forming agents, in particular polyvinyl alcohols of various molecular weights and degrees of hydrolysis.

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Spies et al. only disclose adhesives based on polymers of acrylic acid, other comonomers and a considerable amount of plasticizers or resins.

Nowhere do Spies et al. disclose an adhesive layer using the linkages Applicants claim, namely the functionalities set forth in the claims.

The present invention addresses the need for a water dissolvable adhesive tape by enabling such tape to be "self-wound," that is, to be directly wound onto

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itself on a spool without the inclusion of an intervening layer of release material between each layer of labels or tape. This is achieved through the use of combinations of adhesive layer formulations and release layer formulations that are mutually abherent, thereby allowing the easy unwinding of the tape for use.

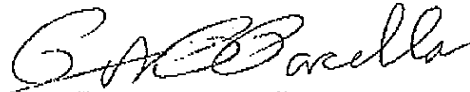
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully ask that the Examiner withdraw the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103.

Clearly, Applicants have provided a unique solution to a special problem.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 26 – 35 are in condition for allowance and respectfully ask that the Examiner pass these claims and claim 21 to issue.

Respectfully submitted,

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